

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figs. 6-9 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figs. 6-9 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figs. 6-9 are to add a mark to element numbers 8, 10, 10A, 17, and 17d to distinguish these figures from the corresponding element numbers in Figs. 1-5. The same mark has been added to the corresponding description in the specification.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 8 and 9.

Claims 1-2 and 11 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 3-5 and 8-10 are currently being amended. No claims are being added.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant appreciates the indication of the allowance of claim 12 and the indication of claim 4 as being allowable. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 4 to be in independent form and thus allowable.

Claims 3 and 11 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 3 has been amended to depend from amended claim 4, and claim 11 has been canceled. Since claim 4 as amended is allowable, claim 3 should be rejoined and also found to be allowable.

The drawings were objected to because reference numerals 8, 10, 10A, 17, and 17d are used to identify parts in the first embodiment and reused to identify modifications of such parts in the second embodiment. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Figs. 6-9 and the associated description to add a mark to reference numerals 8, 10, 10A, 17, and 17d to distinguish them from the unmodified parts in the first embodiment. Applicant therefore requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation "a stepped portion" in claim 5. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to provide proper antecedent basis for this limitation of claim 1. Applicant submits that this Amendment does not add any new matter based on the original claim language itself as well as Fig 1, which shows that the inside end surface 17d is self evidently formed in the stepped portion between the cylindrical base portion 17a and the cylindrical cover portion 17b, i.e., the portion or step connecting the cylindrical base portion 17a to the cylindrical cover portion 17b. Applicant therefore requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 61-117921, and claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 61-117921. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1 and the amendment of claim 4 to be in independent form with claims 5, 6, and 8-10 all dependent from claim 4.

Applicant respectfully submits that entry of this Amendment after final is proper because the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issues that would require further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant requests entry of this Amendment and the allowance of the pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 4/12/06

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FIG.6

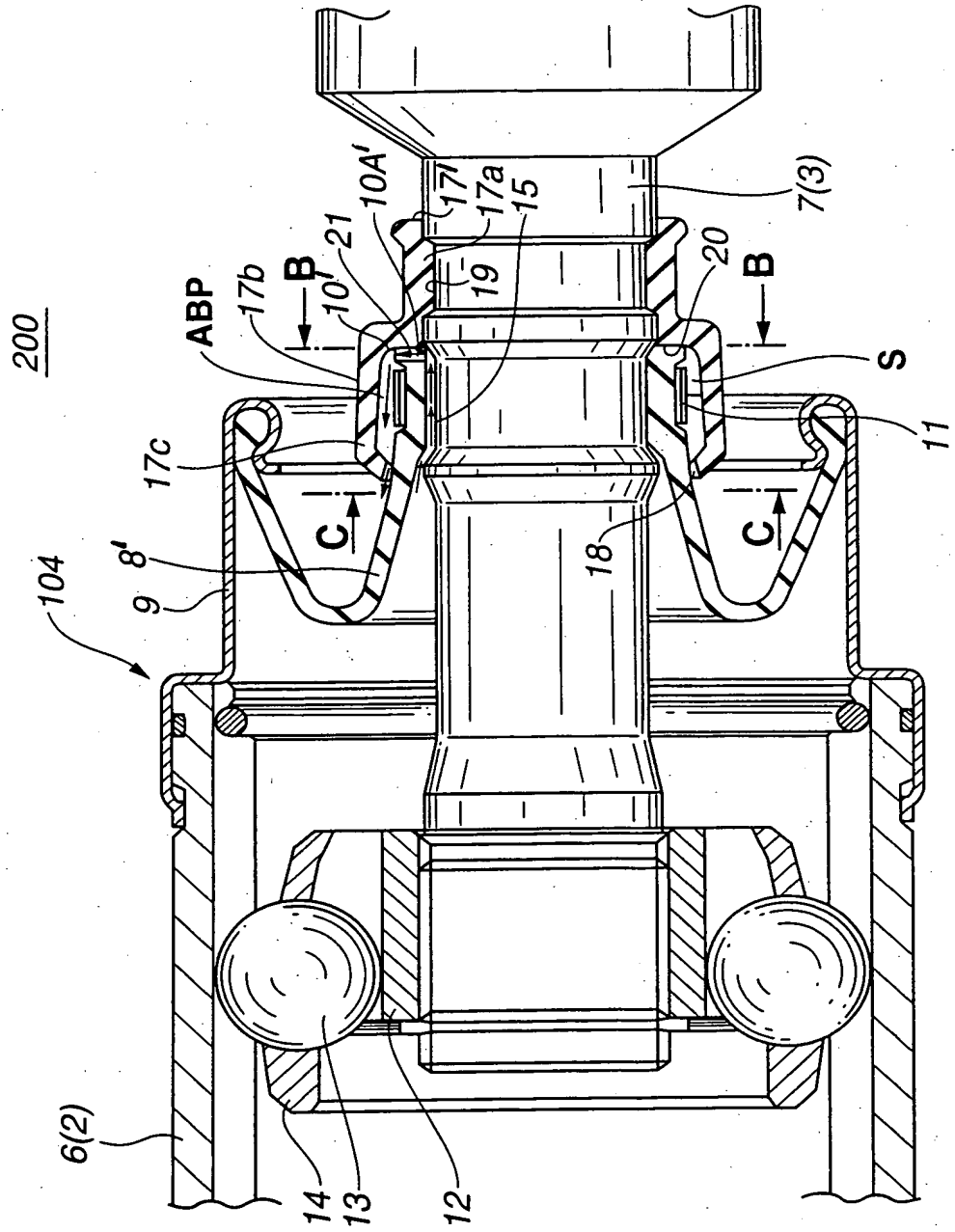


FIG.7

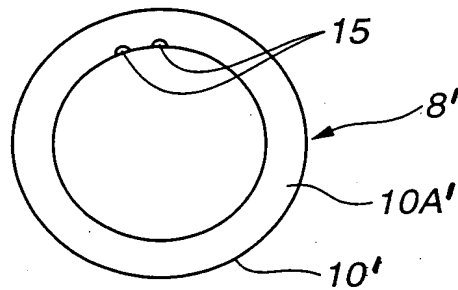


FIG.8

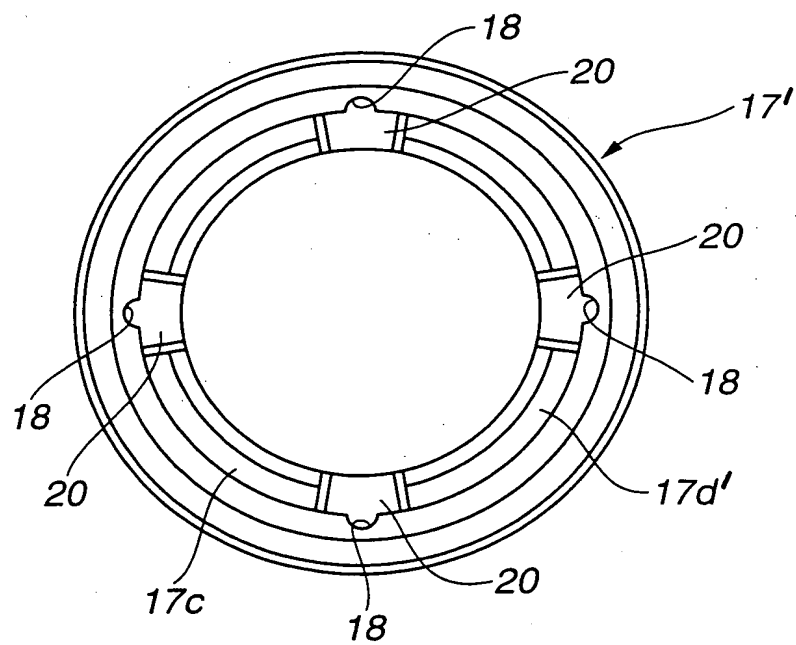


FIG.9

